

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3047

FOR CU/AF DIRECTOR WACHOB FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, SF

SUBJECT: DR. SELMA BROWDE: NOMINATION FOR MULTIREGIONAL
PROJECT

REF: STATE 167083

1. SURPRISED AT TONE OF REFTEL, GIVEN FACT TONY DALSIMER WAS PRESENT WHEN IV SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSED BROWDE NOMINATION AND DECIDED SHE WAS GOOD CANDIDATE, ESPECIALLY IF APPZBPRIATE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT WERE AVAILABLE, DESPITE PREVIOUS PRIVATE VISITS TO US. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF CHRISTMAS VACATION VISIT TO NYC IN 1975, PREVIOUS VISITS WERE PRIMARILY LIMITED LG SCIENTIFIC-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CONSULTATION AND GAVE HER LITTLE EXPOSURE TO BROADER ASPECTS OF US POLITICAL-CULTURAL LIFE. AMONG OTTR THINGS, WE KNOW SHE DOES NLW HAVE FULL OR BALANCED PERCEPTION OF MULTI-ETHNIC ASPECTS OF US SOCIETY AND IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW BLACK-WHITE CONTACTS IN US SOCIETY AND THAT INTEGRATION IS MORE LEGAL RIGHT THAN SOCIOLOGICAL FACT.

2. DR. BROWDPRLV WHO HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO HELEN SUZMAN IN PRP POLITICAL SCENE, HAD DUBIOUS DISTINCTION DURING SOWETO RIOTS OF RECEIVING WRITTEN NOTICE FROM JOHANNESBURG'S CHIEF MAGISTRATE WARNING HER AGAINST "INTERFERING" IN THE UNREST IN WITWATERSRAND AREA. PHRASE "PERIPATETIC" SOCIAL ACTIVIST CAMPAIGNER USED BY

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03047 091056Z

DRAFTER OF OUR A-47 PROBABLY GAVE UNFORTUNATE PERJORATIVE

IMPRESSION NOT INTENDED, FOJ DR. BROWDE IS SERIOUS AND DEDICATED CHAMPION OF BETTER DEAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S URBAN BLACKS, EXHIBITING CONCERN FOR SOME OF THE VERY PROBLEMS THAT ARE AMONG ROOT CAUSES OF RECENT VIOLENCE.

3. UNLESS MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL PROCESS IS SIMPLY INTENDED AS TOURIST TOUR OF US (WHICH WE WOULD NOT WANT FOR HER), WE DO NOT BELIEVE DR. BROWDE'S PREVIOUS VISITS ARE RELEVANT TO THE NOMINATION. IT NOT OUR INTENTION SIMPLY PROVIDE HER WITH FREE TICKET TO US (SHE WOULD PROBABLY PAY HER OWN WAY THERE IF WE ASKED) BUT TO INCLUDE HER IN PROJECT THAT WILL PROVIDE REAL INSIGHTS INTO WOMEN'S ROLE IN POLITICS, PROJECT IN WHICH SHE WOULD CONTRIBUTE AS WELL AS LEARN MUCH OF SIGNIFICANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SPECIAL SITUATION AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD IT.

4. IF CU DISAPPROVES BROWDE NOMINATION WE WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE MORE CAREFUL DEFINITION OF DEGREE TO WHICH PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO US NECESSARILY DISQUALIFIES OTHERWISE GOOD CANDIDATES FOR CU SPONSORSHIP. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT NATURE OF SUCH VISITS WAS IMPORTANT, I.E. THAT PREVIOUS PRIVATE VISITS PER SE WOULD NOT BE DISQUALIFYING IF THEY OCCURRED SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER OR IF THEY WERE OF SUCH BRIEF DURATION
OR LIMITED EXTENT AS NOT TO PROVIDE RELATIVELY FULL, BALANCED PICTURE OF US SOCIETY AND/OR OF SUBJECT AREA FOR WHICH A CU PROJECT IS BEING PROPOSED. WE HAVE GENERALLY NOT CONSIDERED BRIEF GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESS VISITS ONLY TO NYC OR WASHINGTON, ATTENDANCE AT SHORT CONFERENCES, OR BRIEF TRANSITS ENROUTE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS DISQUALIFYING. YOUR COMMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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